

CLAIMS:

1. Pickup unit (1) for reading and/or writing data on a disk, comprising a movable part (3) which is connected to a base (4) of the pickup unit (1) by at least one elastic support member (5), the movable part (3) being movable with respect to the base (4) in a focusing direction (z) of the movable part towards and away from the disk by bending of the at least one elastic support member (5) under the action of an actuator (6, 7, 8) acting between the movable part and the base, further comprising a stroke limiter (11) between the base and the movable part to limit the stroke of the movable part relative to the base at least in the focusing direction, said stroke limiter comprising an electrical contact (5, 12, 13; 15, 12, 14) operatively connected to the actuator (6, 7, 8) to cause the actuator to enable the movable part to move towards a central position upon closure of the contact.
2. Pickup unit according to claim 1, wherein the stroke limiter (11) is configured to limit the stroke of substantially all possible movements of the movable part (3).
3. Pickup unit according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the stroke limiter (11) is of an electro-mechanical type including, besides the electrical contact, a mechanical stop.
4. Pickup unit according to claim 3, wherein the mechanical stop includes at least a protruding member (5; 15) and a counter member (12) having a hole (13; 14) surrounding the protruding member at least partly with a clearance that defines the stroke of the movable part.
5. Pickup unit according to claim 4, wherein the protruding member (5; 15) and the counter member (12) are electrically conducting so as to form the electrical contact.
6. Pickup unit according to claim 4 or 5, wherein at least one of the protruding member (5; 15) and counter member (12) is adjustable.

7. Pickup unit according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the protruding member (5) is formed by the elastic support member passing through the hole (14) adjacent the movable part (3).
- 5 8. Pickup unit according to claim 7, wherein the at least one elastic support member (5) is made of an electrically conducting material and serves as part of the electrical contact of the stroke limiter (11).
9. Pickup unit according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising a
10 plurality of elastic support members (5), preferably four elastic support members.
10. Pickup unit according to claim 9, wherein the elastic support members (5) are wire members.
- 15 11. Pickup unit according to any one of claims 4 to 10, wherein the counter member (12) is a plate member mounted to the base (4) and co-operating with the protruding member (5; 15).
12. Pickup unit according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the elastic support
20 members (5) are attached to projecting portions of the movable part (3) and are extended beyond said projecting portions by means of respective extensions, said extensions co-operating with the counter member.
13. Pickup unit according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the protruding
25 member (15) is a member separate from the at least one support member (5) and is preferably positioned such that it extends in a direction substantially through the center of mass of the movable part (3).
14. Pickup unit according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrical
30 contact (5, 12, 13; 15, 12, 14) acts as a ground contact so as to deactivate the actuator (6, 7, 8) and allow the at least one elastic support member (5) to return the movable part (3) to the central position.

15. Pickup unit according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrical contact (5, 12, 13; 15, 12, 14) and the processor unit are configured such that, upon closure of the contact, the actuator (6, 7, 8) receives a signal from the processor unit to move the movable part (3) towards the central portion.

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16. Disk drive unit comprising the pickup unit according to any one of the preceding claims.